

January 27, 2020

Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Docket RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the American Kidney Fund (AKF), our donors, the 37 million Americans living with kidney disease and especially those individuals suffering from kidney failure that are counting on our financial support daily, I am writing to urge you to reconsider your proposal to abandon the CPI-capped rates, for a set of more complicated formulas that will produce higher postage increases for the nonprofit community.

AKF relies on the U.S. mail to raise funds and communicate with our supporters and constituents. Without the mail, our fundraising efforts would suffer, and impact our mission. With USPS's proposed change, AKF's fundraising budget will not be able to keep pace with the increase in postage costs, resulting in a reduction in our use of the mail, a reduction in our revenue, and in turn, a reduction in our ability to serve patients, and will not reform the Postal Service.

Since 1971, our direct mail program has been a vital component of AKF's work. Today, direct mail generates over twenty-three percent of AKF's income from public donations and remains a significant source of income to AKF. In 2019, AKF spent over \$650K in postage (primarily at nonprofit rates) through our direct mail program.

If our postage rates were to increase even 5%, and produce a corresponding 5% loss of revenue, we would not be able to **provide health insurance premiums to one out of every five dialysis patients, make possible 1,300 kidney transplants, screen more than 12,000 individuals for chronic kidney disease and the co-morbidities that cause kidney disease, fund vital research to better understand the causes and impact of kidney disease, and educate countless individuals who are counting on us every day.** We implore you to consider this consequence.

We are doing everything we possibly can do to keep costs at a minimum so that we can continue providing our services to kidney patients in desperate need. We need your help and the help of the Postal Regulatory Commission. We simply cannot afford postage increases over the Consumer Price Index. Help us be there for kidney patients in their time of need.

Sincerely,



Chris Hines
Sr. Director of Direct Donor Engagement
American Kidney Fund